

# STANDING GROUND RULES

The purpose of the meeting is not to debate the merits of the document. Rather, these workshops are meant to provide opportunities to hear what people are thinking about and receive their input through an open and helpful sharing of ideas.

There will be many opportunities for group discussion. You are asked to subscribe to several key agreements to allow for productive outcomes.

## USE COMMON CONVERSATIONAL COURTESY

*Don't interrupt; use appropriate language, no third party discussions, etc. If requested – please use a microphone so that others do not have to strain to hear.*

**HUMOR IS WELCOME AND IMPORTANT, BUT humor should never be at someone else's expense.**

## ALL IDEAS AND POINTS OF VIEW HAVE VALUE

*You may hear something you do not agree with or you think is silly or wrong. Please remember that the purpose of the forum is to share ideas. All ideas have value in this setting. We are looking for your thoughts and perspectives. The goal is to achieve understanding. You do not have to agree or disagree with any other speaker nor do you have to defend your perspective.*

## 50-MILE RULE

*Most of the participants have demanding responsibilities outside of the meeting room. We ask that these responsibilities be left at the door. Your attention is needed for the full day. Please turn cell phones off. Ask those who would contact you to use the “50 mile rule.” That is, if you didn't have a cell phone or pager, would they drive 50 miles to come get you in person? If you do not believe you will be able to participate for the day, please discuss your situation with one of the facilitators.*

## BE COMFORTABLE

*Please feel free to help yourself to refreshments or take personal breaks. If you have other needs please let a facilitator know.*

## SPELLING DOESN'T COUNT

*Recent research indicates that writing on a vertical surface (like blackboards or flipcharts) actually increases the number of spelling errors.*

## HONOR TIME

*We have an ambitious agenda. In order to meet our goals it will be important to follow the time guidelines given by the facilitator.*

## AVOID EDITORIALS

*It will be tempting to analyze the motives of others or offer editorial comments. Please talk about YOUR ideas and thoughts.*